



Newsrelease

City of Santa Clara



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Santa Clara

Newly Expanded Senior Center to Reopen

The largest public senior center in the Bay Area will open in the City of Santa Clara on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 7 a.m., to serve the fastest-growing segment of the City's population – adults over the age of 50. The Senior Center is located at 1303 Fremont St. A special dedication followed by an open house will occur the day before, on Feb. 12, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

The \$13 million Santa Clara Senior Center expansion project nearly tripled the size of the old facility built in 1973, to more than 45,000-square-feet, and converted it into a multifaceted center designed to meet the wide variety of interests and needs of older residents.

The largest addition is space for health and wellness programs that includes a 3,000-square-foot fitness area with 37 pieces of commercial-quality exercise equipment, and a 7,000-square-foot natatorium (indoor pool area) featuring a lap pool, a therapeutic pool and a spa. It is the first senior center in the Bay Area to have indoor pools, locker rooms and individual showers.

Also gaining significant new space is the computer lab, the billiards and game room, and classrooms including an aerobics room and a dance theater room. In addition, the Senior Center has a ceramics/painting studio, a wood shop, a lapidary room, and a coffee/snack bar in the two-story lobby that is equipped with comfortable chairs, a fireplace and game tables.

“Our greatly expanded and enhanced Senior Center showcases the interests of older adults today – proactive health and fitness activities and hobbies they are passionate about,” said Mayor Patricia M. Mahan. “Santa Clara seniors are active and interested in many things, and our new Senior Center reflects that.”

The City of Santa Clara has offered senior services since 1969. The Senior Center is well-used by residents with more than 80,000 visits logged each year. The new Senior Center will have a full and part time staff of 22 and will be open 70 hours per week. Its annual operating budget is just under \$1 million.

“We pride ourselves on providing a friendly and welcoming environment to our seniors,” said Becky Juntado, Senior Center Director, “and we are continuously looking for new programs and services we can add to meet the needs of the residents we serve. We were one of the first to offer senior fitness programs and our tour/trip programs are the most extensive available in any community.”

Planning for the new Senior Center started in 2001 and its master plan and design completed in 2003. Construction began in 2005, and the project was completed on time and on budget.

Several existing areas of the original Senior Center were retained including an auditorium/multipurpose room that can seat up to 300, the entrance lobby, restrooms, a classroom, and a full-service, commercial grade kitchen.

City of Santa Clara Senior Center

Reopening 7 a.m. Tuesday, February 13, 2007
Better than ever! Now the largest Senior Center in the Bay Area!

Size	The expanded Santa Clara Senior Center is 45,000+ square feet – almost triple the size of the original facility [16,653 square feet]	
Construction Timing/Costs	Completed on time: 24 months from when the construction contract was awarded in 2005. Discussion of the expansion started in 2001 and the master plan and design were completed in 2003. On budget: \$12,959,337 from the City's General Contingency Reserve for Capital Projects	
Operation	Open 70 hours per week, staffed by 22 full and part-time employees. Mon.-Thur. 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Fri. 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Plus dances on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.	
Special Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natatorium [indoor pool] with lap pool, therapeutic pool and spa• Fitness Center – 3,000 square feet, 37 pieces commercial-quality exercise equipment, men's and women's locker rooms, individual showers• Wellness Program providing nurse health care, counseling, case manager, home care referral• Computer lab with 15 computers• Classrooms including aerobics room, dance theater, ceramics/painting studio, wood shop, lapidary room• Billiards and Game Room• Coffee/snack bar in the lobby along with comfortable chairs, game tables and fireplace• Auditorium/multipurpose room seating up to 300• Full service, commercial grade kitchen	
Senior Population	An estimated 22% of the City's population is 50 years or older and it's the fastest-growing segment of the community. This facility was also built to serve the disabled.	
History	1960	Golden Age Club formed
	1969	City starts senior services
	1973	Original Senior Center opens; first in Bay Area
	1998	Senior fitness programs begin
	2007	Largest Senior Center in the Bay Area opens in City of Santa Clara and the first with a natatorium and full-service Fitness Center